

Sent by email only to:

xxxx

Email: xxxx

25 October 2021

RE: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) audit of xxxx and subsequent follow up work.

Dear xxxx,

As you may be aware, during 2019 the ICO's Audit Team conducted a compulsory audit of xxxx. The purpose of the audit was to provide the ICO with an assurance of the extent to which your party, within the scope of the audit, was complying with data protection legislation. Your party engaged positively with the audit process and seemed to welcome the opportunity to discuss and exchange data protection issues and examples of good practice with the ICO's Audit Team.

The audit however found some considerable areas for improvement in both transparency and lawfulness and we recommended several specific actions to bring your party's processing in compliance with data protection laws. In addition, we recommended that your party implemented several appropriate technical and organisational measures to meet the requirements of the accountability principle of the legislation. Overall, at the time that the audit was conducted, there was a limited level of assurance that processes and procedures were in place and were delivering data protection compliance. The ICO published their '[Summary of audits of data protection compliance by UK political parties](#)' report in November 2020.

More recently we conducted follow up work with your party to determine the extent to which our recommendations from the original audit had been actioned. I attach a copy of our Follow Up Report as a separate document to this letter for your information.

The follow up work concluded that your party has made meaningful progress to or completed all the actions agreed in the original audit and where some outstanding actions exist, acceptable progress is being made to mitigate the risk of non-compliance.

The ICO recognises that society benefits from political parties that want to keep in touch with people, through more informed voting decisions, better engagement with hard to reach groups and the potential for increased engagement in democratic processes. The use of new technologies and strategies that utilise personal information for political campaign purposes is only going to continue to grow. Trust is crucial in this process, not only in informing our confidence in political parties, but also in democracy more broadly. The transparency and accountability required by data protection is a key aspect in developing this trust in our democracy.

Therefore, I hope that the measures and processes put in place as a result of the audit continue to be effective, adhered to and embedded in the future, particularly in future campaigning by your party. The ICO retains the right to take further action if issues around your party's compliance come to our attention in the future.

Finally I would like to thank those in your party that were directly involved in the engagement for their co-operation and work.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Assurance, ICO.